



*Inspiring all learners to
achieve excellence*

Barrington Community
Unit School District 220

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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BARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Prairie Campus

Station Campus

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Countryside

Grove Avenue

Hough Street

Arnett C. Lines

North Barrington

Barbara B. Rose

Roslyn Road

Sunny Hill

Woodland

Deborah Villers
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November 13, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I understand that Canadian National Railway Company plans to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. I have been informed that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington, Illinois area each day. According to some, the increase will be much larger than that, and the final number is completely unpredictable. Such an increase will require a great deal of examination to assure that traffic and safety concerns of my organization are met.

I am the Staff/Community Relations Coordinator for Barrington Community Unit School District 220. I have been in this position for 14 years. Our school district covers 72 square miles and serves over 9,000 students PreK-12th grade.

The school district has significant concerns regarding the traffic congestion which will come about as a result of adding an extra 15+ freight trains through our area. The current EJ&E tracks cross over at least four major roads/intersections in our school district, and many of our students and buses have to cross over these tracks in order to get to school. The delays caused by the freight trains will have an extremely detrimental impact on our ability to transport our students to and from school in both a timely and safe fashion.

I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I am certain that an extra 15 trains, each taking somewhere around five minutes to pass through the area, constitutes a significant impact on this region. I assume, therefore, that you will issue such a statement which will give me and others an opportunity to review the true environmental impacts of this transaction. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in this process. Thank you.

Deborah Villers
School/Community Relations